



Rear Admiral (Ret.) Richard J. Bertin, Ph.D., R.Ph.

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Richard Bertin is Executive Director of the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS). He has held this position since February 1997, when he retired from the United States Public Health Service after a long career in a variety of clinical and administrative positions.

A 1965 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, RADM Bertin went on to earn a Master's Degree in Hospital Pharmacy and a Ph.D. in Pharmacy Administration from the University of Minnesota. While in the Public Health Service, he served as Chief Professional Officer (as an Assistant Surgeon General at the grade of Rear Admiral) as well as in the National Institute of Mental Health, the Bureau of Medical Services, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Office of the Surgeon General, and the Food and Drug Administration. His responsibilities ranged from clinical pharmacy practice to advising the Surgeon General, the Assistant Secretary for Health, and other Federal and non-Federal leaders on national pharmacy issues.

BPS was established in 1976 by the American Pharmacists Association to recognize specialties and to certify pharmacists' knowledge and skills in specialized areas of pharmacy practice. Five specialties are currently recognized by BPS: nuclear pharmacy, nutrition support pharmacy, oncology pharmacy, pharmacotherapy, and psychiatric pharmacy. Nearly 5000 pharmacists are currently certified by BPS in one or more of these specialties. As the Board's first Executive Director, RADM Bertin is responsible for the overall management and growth of the BPS specialty certification program. In his present position, he works with several national membership organizations and educational institutions on a wide variety of credentialing activities across the pharmacy profession.